

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-10 EB-06 AID-05 FEA-01

AEC-07 OES-03 /101 W

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R 211627Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 873

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS BEIRUT 12615

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG XF LY

SUBJECT: QADHAFI RESPONDS TO SADAT'S QUESTIONS

REF: BEIRUT 12186

1. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED OCT. 7 IN INDEPENDENT BEIRUT WEEKLY AL USBU AL ARABI (REFTEL), EGYPTIAN PRES. SADAT--IN SPEAKING ON LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS--ASKED, "WHAT DOES THE COLONEL WANT? IF ANYONE COULD ANSWER THIS QUESTION, WE COULD ALL REST IN COMFORT." SAME MAGAZINE HAS NOW (OCT. 20) PUBLISHED REBUTTAL LETTER FROM QADHAFI IN WHICH HE CALLS FOR DOWNFALL OF "DOMINEERING GOVT ADMINISTRATION" IN EGYPT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF "RULE OF THE PEOPLE," AND LISTS FIVE POINTS RE ARAB UNITY AND WORLD PEACE.

2. QADHAFI'S LETTER ALLEGES SADAT ACCUSED HIM OF WANTING "TO RULE EGYPT" DURING AUGUST 1974 TALKS IN ALEXANDRIA THAT RESULTED IN SUSPENSION OF LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. QADHAFI SAYS HE REPLIED, "IS THIS A PROBLEM THAT JUSTIFIES BRINGING RELATIONS TO THIS SERIOUS LEVEL?...IS IT BECAUSE YOU (SADAT) DO NOT WANT ME TO RULE EGYPT THAT YOU LET EGYPT BE DERPRIVED OF LIBYA'S UNLIMITED

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SUPPORT?...DIDN'T WE INSIST THAT YOU SHOULD RULE BOTH EGYPT AND

LIBYA? DIDN'T WE MAKE YOU PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS? AND NOW I ADD, DIDN'T NASSER TELL HEIKAL THAT HE WANTED ME TO RULE CAIRO SO THAT HE COULD DEVOTE HIMSELF TO LEADERSHIP OF ARAB SOCIALIST UNION?"

3. QADHAFI MAINTAINS IN HIS LETTER THAT SADAT'S INTERPRETATION OF HIS ATTITUDE "IS NOT PROBLEM THAT SHOULD LEAD (EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN) RELATIONS TO THE BRINK, THUS MAKING EGYPT...SUFFER (FOR LACK OF AID AND SUPPORT)." HE FURTHER ASSERTS THAT ISSUE OF WHO SHOULD RULE IS "HISTORIC AND ETHICAL QUESTION THAT MUST BE RECORDED AND SUBMITTED TO ALL THE ARAB MASSES, ESPECIALLY... THE UNIONISTS (IN LIBYA AND EGYPT)."

4. EXPLAINING HIS "REAL" WANTS, QADHAFI SAYS, "TRUTH IS THAT I DO NOT WANT TO RULE EGYPT...I WANT EGYPTIAN PEOPLE TO RULE EGYPT. I WANT PEASANTS, WORKERS, STUDENTS AND SMALL EMPLOYEES TO MARCH AND SEIZE POWER, AND ADMINISTER THEIR COUNTRY BY POPULAR WILL AS IS CASE IN LIBYA. LET THE DOMINEERING ADMINISTRATION FALL." HE LISTS HIS "WANTS" AS FOLLOWS: (A) "ARAB UNITY, OF WHICH UNION BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA WOULD BE NUCLEUS"; (B) "LIBERATION OF PALESTINE AND REPATRIATION OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, NOT JUST RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS WHICH IS AN IMPERIALIST PHRASE THAT MEANS NOTHING"; (C) "BUILDING OF ARAB INDUSTRIAL AND NUCLEAR POWER AS THIRD WORLD-FORCE THROUGH ARAB UNITY"; (D) "ISLAMIC UNION, IN WHICH UNIFIED ARAB NATION WOULD BE PART, OR RATHER CENTER OF GRAVITY, CAPABLE OF BRINGING ALL MOSLEMS ON THIS PLANET TOGETHER, DEFENDING THEIR SANCTUARIES AND HOLY PLACES, IMPOSING RESPECT ON RECKLESS WORLD AND REVIVING ISLAM AS DIVINE IDEOLOGY"; AND, (E) "I WANT PEACE, EQUALITY AND FRATERNITY FOR ALL HUMAN BEINGS."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT12615
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740300-0122
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741032/aaaabasg.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BEIRUT 12186
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 APR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <07 FEB 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QADHAFI RESPONDS TO SADAT'S QUESTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, LY, (QADHAFI, MU'AMMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005